

Summarization of HB 645

Including Coordination with HB 2 and Other Bills

MAJOR CHANGES IN STATUTE

General

- Section 1 - Allows certain rules to be retroactive to February 17.
- Sections 7 and 23 provide for a statutory appropriation of any federal stimulus funds that the federal government requires be invested and the earnings expended.
- Section 24 - Requires the Governor to maintain an official website for reporting and accountability requirements of ARRA.
- Sections 39 through 44 coordinate this bill with other bills that also include funding for purposes contained in this bill, including
 - Various HB 2 provisions (detail table)
 - HB 5 and HB 10 (detail table)
 - HB 13 (pay plan bill), as this bill includes OTO funding also included in that bill
 - HB 135 and HB 161, which fund the Blackfoot and Fort Belknap water compacts
- Section 50 defines "restricted" to allow its use in this bill to restrict appropriations to purposes specified by the legislature.

Budgeting/Appropriations Statutes

- Section 3 - Exempts stimulus funds from the indirect cost recovery requirements.
- Section 5 - Base is redefined to include expenditures of federal stimulus funds if specified in the bill.
- Section 5 - Present law was redefined to include funding with general fund if federal funds temporarily replaced general fund in this bill (primarily Medicaid and university system).
- Section 6 - Budget amendment law is redefined to allow addition of stimulus funds.
- Section 8 - Makes recovery of indirects in MUS subject to ARRA restrictions.

UI

- Sections 9, 10, and 11 - Deal with changes to UI necessary for the bill.
- Sections 10 and 11 - Add part-time workers and people who are training for work but exhausted all UI benefits. These are the permanent statute changes.

Human Services

- Sections 2, 4, 13, 30 through 36, 46 - Hospital utilization fee that goes to the hospitals is reduced, with the remainder to the general fund. Sections 30 through 36 make necessary changes to the termination date of all the previous utilization bills, while section 46 has contingent voidness if the federal government does not approve the necessary state plan amendment..
- Section 12 - Older Montanans Trust trended line is defined (as it is taken out elsewhere) for purposes of determining what the funds can be used for.
- Section 14 - Establishes a Medicaid reserve account in the state special revenue to be used by DPHHS for Medicaid benefits after June 30, 2011.
- Section 15 - Adjusts the health and Medicaid initiative account to eliminate the intention that the funds be used to increase enrollment rates and not support existing enrollment based upon appropriates ending 6/30/2005. Also takes away the intention that increased Medicaid services and provider rates funded with general fund were not to be supplanted except that over the trended line. Because of this elimination, the definition in Section 12 needed to be put in.
- Section 37 - Appropriates \$4 million from HB 2 of the 2007 biennium that would otherwise have reverted for provider rate increases, and other funds that would otherwise revert from the 2007 biennium 72 hour crisis appropriation for the mental health crisis diversion pilot program.
- Section 38 - Reduces the general fund appropriation and increases the federal fund appropriation for Medicaid and Child Support Enforcement in fiscal 2009 to account for enhanced federal funds in ARRA.

Environmental and Energy

- Sections 16 and 17 – Section 16 puts the ARRA into the definitions in the water pollution control revolving account, and Section 17 allows the money received from ARRA to be used for loan forgiveness or other uses allowed by law.
- Sections 18 and 19 – Section 18 changes the definition under safe drinking water to include ARRA, and Section 19 allows the uses of the ARRA under that statute, including loan forgiveness.
- Sections 20 and 21 – Make adjustments to the alternative energy revolving loan account to extend the loan period and allow uses under the ARRA, including changing the loan limit and payback length.
- Section 29 – Establishes the Quick Start energy grants.

Infrastructure

- Section 22 Exempts projects funded with the stimulus under the Big Sky Economic Development Program from that program's requirement for distribution based upon the number of jobs created from the funding, as well as funding limits and other requirements.
- Section 25 – Establishes the Distressed Wood Products Industry Recovery Program.
- Section 26 – Allows the Department of Commerce to establish rules to implement worker training and broadband matching grant programs.
- Section 27 – Specifies how the \$10 million in grants to counties must be allocated.
- Section 28 – Specifies how the \$10 million in grants to municipalities must be allocated.